

Crusade so as to win the favour of the leaders of the Church, by stirring up an internal revolt in Germany and a frontier attack on the Greek Empire, he might anticipate, or at least paralyse, the coalition.

The kingdom of Hungary, lying between the two empires, was exposed to the attacks of both. It was related to the new kingdom of Sicily by marriage ties, for a daughter of the first Count of Sicily had married Coloman, its King. The new ruler, Geiza II., was troubled by the counter-claims of Boris, son of Coloman, and the pretender was backed by both Conrad and Manuel. The kingdom of the Magyars, therefore, became a factor in the whole question; it is probable that Welf, organising a rebellion against Conrad, established relations with Geiza; at least in the autumn of 1149, an allied army of Hungarians and Serbs attacked the frontiers of the Greek Empire. The hand of Roger and of Welf may be seen in this flank attack, which diverted Manuel's attention.

After Corfu had fallen (end of 1149) the Basileus gathered at Avlona a fleet with which he meant to attack Apulia. A storm scattered the ships, and having now to face his enemies on the

north, he
could only send to Ancona the Grand-
domestic
Aksouch, who failed to meet Conrad in
his brief
stay on Italian soil.

Early in 1150, the German princes
rose against
Conrad. - Welf was defeated at
Flochberg, but